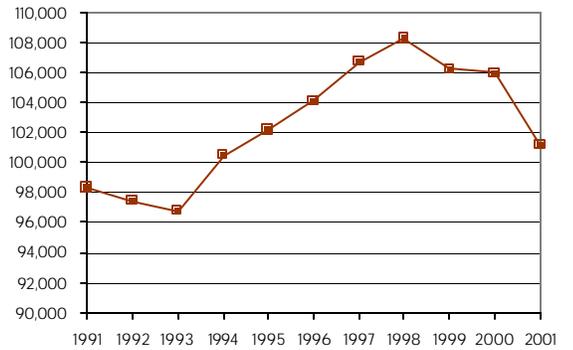


Manufacturing Employment in New Hampshire

After three consecutive years of declining employment during the recession in the early 1990s, Manufacturing employment in New Hampshire increased every year until it reached a peak of 108,269 workers in 1998. Since then, employment has declined every year. In just one year, between 2000 and 2001, nearly 5,000 jobs were lost as another economic slowdown hit the state.

Over the ten-year period from 1991 to 2001, employment in Manufacturing increased by over 2,800 jobs, a total change of 2.9 percent. Gains were not evenly distributed among New Hampshire's ten counties. Rockingham Coun-

Manufacturing Employment in New Hampshire



ty led the way with gains in Chemicals and allied products and Industrial machinery. Hillsborough County, New Hampshire's most populous, lost 643 Manufacturing jobs from 1991 to 2001.

The changes over the ten years illustrate the *cyclical* component of Manufacturing employment as demand for workers decreases because demand for the final product is less. Electronics and other electric equipment is an example of a cyclical industry. Firms purchase computers and related components when business conditions are good, but cut back on orders when times are tough. There is also a *structural* component where job losses are a result of technological changes and foreign competition. In general, structural job losses are harder to recover from, while cyclical jobs can return with an economic upswing.

Michael Argiropolis

Change in Manufacturing Employment 1991 & 2001

	1991	2001	Change in jobs	Percent Change
Belknap	3,715	4,704	989	26.6%
Carroll	1,206	1,409	203	16.8%
Cheshire	7,018	6,508	-510	-7.3%
Coos	3,683	2,218	-1,465	-39.8%
Grafton	6,551	6,651	100	1.5%
Hillsborough	40,795	40,152	-643	-1.6%
Merrimack	8,261	8,961	700	8.5%
Rockingham	13,806	18,922	5,116	37.1%
Strafford	9,433	7,564	-1,869	-19.8%
Sullivan	3,864	4,091	227	5.9%
New Hampshire	98,332	101,180	2,848	2.9%

ty led the way with 5,116 jobs, with more than half of the gains coming from Electronics and other electrical equipment and Instruments and related products. Belknap County was also strong, with 989 manufacturing jobs added in a number of varied industries.

Four counties suffered declines in employment. Most of the losses were in Coos and Strafford counties. Nearly 3,400 jobs were lost over the ten-year period as the lumber and paper industries were especially hard hit in these counties. Some of

Change in Manufacturing Employment 1991-2001

